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sought for these positions, and it is seldom that a lieutenant governor does not have to spend two or three times the amount of his official salary. But the general accuracy of Mr. Porritt's volume cannot be challenged. It covers much ground and in all that relates to the constitutional history of the Dominion and the development of relations with the Mother Country it is illuminating and authoritative.

JOHN WILLISON.

Toronto, Canada.

Documents of the Canadian Constitution. Selected and edited by W. P. M. KENNEDY. (Toronto: The Oxford Press. 1918. Pp. 707.)

The title of this volume is apt to mislead the unwary. The book does not contain, as its title might imply, a collection of documents relating to the present governmental system of Canada. The greater portion of it is devoted to materials illustrating the development of Canadian government in the period between the close of the French régime and the enactment of the Act of Confederation in 1867. Among the materials included are acts of parliament, ordinances, petitions, reports, decisions of courts, treaties, extracts from parliamentary debates and correspondence. All are arranged in chronological order. Aside from brief historical notes inserted at a half-dozen places in the book, no attempt is made to interpret the documents or to appraise their relative importance.

In the selection of materials for inclusion in his volume the editor has in more ways than one proved himself a strict constructionist. His interpretation of Canadian constitutional history lays great stress (and perhaps rightly so) upon the course of relations between the imperial and the colonial authorities, also upon the bickerings which went on for so long a time between the executive and legislative branches of government in Canada. So much attention is given to these things, however, that very little heed is paid to the social and economic backgrounds of constitutional evolution although these were, after all, far more important in determining the general course of events than were the foibles or fads of either colonial secretaries or local governors. It is somewhat strange in this day and generation to find an historical scholar interpreting constitutional history in terms so distinctly political and personal, with relatively little heed to those economic factors which have had a profound influence in Canada as everywhere else.

Canada, one might judge by this volume, is composed of two provinces, formerly known as Upper and Lower Canada, but now called Ontario and Quebec. At any rate the contribution of the maritime provinces to the winning of responsible government for the Canadian people (and it was of considerable extent) is given no adequate recognition. Nor, with the exception of two federal statutes, does the book contain any documents illustrating the development of free government in that vast expanse of modern Canada which lies beyond the Great Lakes. Yet the story of how this great tract was acquired, how it was organized into territories and how it was finally parceled into provinces is not the least interesting chapter in the history of empire building.

In spite of these limitations, however, Mr. Kennedy has compiled a useful book. He has brought together a great many documents which have not hitherto been available save in out-of-the-way places and has put them together with a great deal of care.

W. B. M.

Cambridge, Mass.

Government and Politics of Switzerland. By ROBERT C. BROOKS. (Government Handbooks, edited by David P. Barrows and Thomas H. Reed. Yonkers: World Book Company. 1918. Pp. xvi, 430.)

The purpose of this volume is to provide a textbook for students of political science and at the same time attract the attention of the general reader who may be visible in the offing. The author is an enthusiastic admirer of Swiss institutions and a professor in an American college. Comparisons between the two countries are constantly in evidence. Even when no parallels are drawn in words the descriptions distinctly presuppose an American background. No better combination of sentiment and method could be devised to bring out the salient features of Swiss government, for the likenesses are so strong that the differences stand out in high relief. We scarcely need the express declarations of the writers of 1848 that the American Constitution was consciously before them, so conclusive is the internal evidence.

Descriptions of the little republic need to be renewed at intervals, for Switzerland is a progressive state and its laws are not written on tablets of bronze. The voters do not always do the logical thing, but they eventually correct their mistakes and the adoption of improvements marches on. Even while this book was passing through the